GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:218
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007
DECLINE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION
Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the popularity of science as a subject in educational institutions is on the decline in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government and the National Council of Educational Research and Training propose to formulate any effective policy to promote the study of science;

(d) if so, the details thereof; the percentage share of GDP spent on scientific research and development by the Union Government in comparison to other countries of the world during the last three years, year-wise;

(f) whether any assessment has been made regarding year-wise number of scientists for every 1000 persons in the country; (g) if so, the details thereof; (h) whether the Union Government proposes to carry out a review of the National Policy in this regard and; (i) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (i): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO
(i) OF THE LOK ABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 218 FOR ANSWER ON 13-3-2007 REGARDING DECLINE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION ASKED BY PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR AND SHRI SHiSHUPAL N. PATLE

(a): No, Sir. According to the information contained in the `India Science Report`, published in 2005, based on a survey sponsored by Indian National Science Academy (!NSA) and carried out by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the proportion of the students enrolled in science courses has gone up from 28.8% of the population in 1995-S6 to 34.6% in 2003-04.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): As part of the exercise towards developing the National Curriculum Framework- 2005J the NCERT set up a National Focus Group on Teaching of Science`, to deliberate on the issues of science education in the country. The recommendations of the National Focus Group were considered during the formulation of the National Curriculum Framework.Further, the Ministry of Human Resource Dsveiopment, had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. MM. Sharma for basic scientific research in Universities. Details of the recommendations of the above mentioned Task Force are at Annexure-I. In order to build scientific research institutions of the highest standards in which teaching and research at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels will be undertaken in an integrated manner, Ministry of Human Resource Development has set up two Indian institutes of Scientific Education and Research (IISERs) at Koikata and Pune and the third USER is being set up at Mohali in Punjab.Ministry of Science and Technology has also a scheme namely Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)` incorporating measures such as scholarship, summer camps with science Icons and assured income for the talented in science so that they take up research as a career. This integrated approach provides a hand holding and safety net mechanism for identifying and nurturing youth with aptitude and talent for research.

(e): The percentage share of GDP spent on scientific Research and Development (R&D) by India during the the period from 2001-02 to 2003-04, as per the latest available statistics, is at Annexure- II, Since different countries of the world carry out their Research & Development Surveys at different intervals, comparative yearly data is not available. However a comparison of yearly expenditure on R&D as percentage of GDP based on the latest available data for the years from 2000 to 2002 is given at Annexure-III.

(f) & (g): Yes, Sir. The assessment is carried out every two years to estimate the number of scientific researchers in the country. The figure as per the latest available data is 110 researchers per million population in 2002-03.

(h): There is no proposal under consideration for a review of the Science and Technology Policy of 2003.

(i): Does not arise.